Suburban railway projects in Maharashtra

2966. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that suburban railway projects proposed by the Government of Maharashtra in the second Bombay Urban Transport Project has been pending for long because of indecision on certain issues relating to the projects;

(b) if so, what are the unresolved issues between the Central Government and the State Government of Maharashtra;

(c) whether it is a fact that World Bank has expressed its unwillingness to grant loan for the project till these issues are settled; and

(d) if so, what steps are contemplated by the Central Government in the wider interest of the overall economic development of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) For the original project, costing Rs. 1526.57 crores (Phase-I), Planning Commission is yet to approve 50 per cent cost of Railways' share, outside Railway's Plan outlay, as proposed.

(ii) The proposed extension of the project from Rs. 152657 to Rs. 2074. 50 crores, would be considered after implementation of Phase-I and stablisation of the traffic pattern.

(c) and (d) The project is under correspondence and yet to be finalised.

Facilities to decorated soldiers

2967. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are processing to give the facilities to highly distinguished defence personnel which are given to freedom fighters; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to financial constraints, it is difficult to enlarge the scope of free rail travel.

Stoppage of Purushottam Express at Bokaro

2968. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration regarding the stoppage of both up and down Purushottam Express at Bokaro Steel City Railway Station;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to industrial belt there is always a rush for reservation in all trains and in all classes, which presently is very less in number to fulfil the demand;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to raise the reservation quota from Bokaro in all trains especially linking capitals metros and important places;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) 2801/2802 Purushottam Express does not run via Bokaro Steel City.

(b) to (d) The reservation quotas available at Bokaro are generally adequate except in Delhi bound trains where the demand in sleeper class is slightly more than the quota and therefore a fresh quota of 5 sleeper class berths by 2801 Purushottam Express w.e.f. 22.3.1994 and an additional quota of one sleeper class berth by 2815 Puri-New Delhi Express w.e.f. 8.4.94 is being allotted at this station ex. Gomoh.

(d) Does not arise.

Linking of Purulia Railway Station with Bokaro via Kotshila route

2969. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Purulia Railway Station has been linked with Bokaro via Kotshila route which is the shortest route in comparison to the existing one;

(b) whether the railways have any proposal to route Purushottam Express through Purulia to Gomoh via Kotshila for Bokaro;

(c) if so, what are details therefor; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Operational constraints.

Metro Rail Project Calcutta

2970. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of on-going of Metro Rail, Calcutta;

(b) whether lack of finance has delayed the total Project;

(c) whether connection between Esplanade to Dum Dum is being delayed; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Out of 16.45 km length, two sections viz., Dum Dum to Belgachia (2.22 km) and Esplanade to Tollygunj (7.57 km), totalling to 9.79 km have been completed and commissioned for traffic by 1986.

(b) to (d) Lack of funds and non-availability of land had delayed the project in the initial stages. However, allocation of funds has been increased considerably in the later years. Dum Dum to Belgachia has already been completed while the rest of the section upto Esplanade will be completed by 1995. There are still six plots of land yet to be made available by the State Government of West Bengal for the Project.

Development in the fuel efficiency kit for diesel locomotives

2971. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fuel efficiency kit for diesel locomotives has been indigenously developed in the country;

(b) if so, what is the extent of saving in fuel consumption achieved with the use of this kit; and

(c) what is the likely annual saving of fuel with the introduction of the device?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.